

DISCOVERY



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

ASC commander praises Brooks leaders at historic change of command

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Reiterating the confidence that he and other senior Air Force leaders have in the new 311th Human Systems Wing commander, Lt. Gen. Richard Reynolds helped facilitate the Brooks change of command Feb. 6 that was as symbolically historic as Hangar 9 is as a frequent ceremony venue for change.

Reynolds, the Aeronautical Systems Center commander, presided at the ceremony in which Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd relinquished command of the 311th HSW to Col. Thomas Travis, former U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine commander.

The event, coincidentally held on the 92nd birthday of Ronald Reagan as our nation's longest living president, also made Air Force history with the first flight surgeon colonel becoming wing commander.

Referring to the 311th HSW's significant on-going support role in America's global war on terrorism, Reynolds said of Travis, "There's not a single doubt in my mind that he is qualified to handle it. Tom is a warrior airman who understands the needs of the warfighter on many, many different levels."

The ASC commander highlighted some of Travis's contributions to the



Photo by Senior Airman Brandy Bogart

Moving on

Members of the U.S. Air Force Drill Team, assigned to Bolling Air Force Base, Washington D.C., performed for Brooks personnel and special guests during the change of command ceremony Feb. 6 at Hangar 9. Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd relinquished command to Col. Thomas Travis, former commander of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

Air Force during a career that spans 26 years. He said, "It's abundantly clear that you've got a strong grip on the importance of your contributions in continuing to keep peace and freedom secure around the world. And it gives me great confidence to recognize the dedication, knowledge and experience you bring to the challenges ahead of you by handing you the flag of the Human Systems Wing."

In his opening remarks, Reynolds thanked Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Dodd for their leadership and contributions that have had a significant impact on the Brooks and San Antonio community.

Reynolds said, "The Nobel Prize winning poet and author T.S. Eliot once wrote: 'What we believe is not merely what we formulate or what we subscribe to, but behavior is also a belief. Belief and behavior can not be distinguished.' Said differently, it's possible to look at what a person has done or what they do and judge by those actions exactly what it is that person believes. When you take a look at Lloyd Dodd, you can see that this is true. By examining his record of service it's really very easy to understand what he believes in. It's fundamentally clear Lloyd believes in people."

Citing a litany of Dodd's Brooks accomplishments, Reynolds praised him for his steadfast devotion to improving base morale, welfare and working conditions. He also recognized Dodd as a great communicator who is customer-driven, working tirelessly to improve communications with the Air Force Medical Service and the San Antonio community. He characterized the outgoing HSW commander as "absolutely critical" to the process that resulted in Brooks City-Base, which is projected to save the Air Force \$15 million a year in the future.

Acknowledging the appreciation he and his wife Kate have had for the Brooks community that had become their extended family, Dodd said the new head of this Air Force family is without question the right person for the job during a time of war when America needs strong leaders.

"In my mind the absolute best person to replace me, and remember I take this family very seriously, is Tom Travis. His expertise, leadership skills and his credibility all make him the best person for this job," Dodd said, adding, "I can leave with a clear conscience, albeit frankly with a heavy heart, knowing my family is in good hands."

Referring to the USAFSAM team that he commanded for 18 months, Travis said, "They know very clearly what I emphasize above all, and that's mission. People are right there with the mission, because when people are well taken care of they execute the mission extremely well."

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Air Force extends current, upcoming deployments

By Master Sgt. Rick Burnham

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Currently and soon-to-be deployed airmen will remain deployed longer than the previously targeted three-month rotation, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper announced Jan. 28 in a message to all airmen. The change was made to meet the needs of combatant commanders.

Specifically, active-duty and mobilized reserve-component airmen deployed with Air and Space Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8 and those deploying as part of new taskings ordered by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld Dec. 24 should anticipate remaining in place until further notice, Jumper said in the message. Airmen in some "stressed" career fields have already been extended beyond three months.

The need for additional forces is part of a buildup of air power in Southwest Asia, ready to achieve national security objectives if directed by the president.

“I know this is a lot to ask, and I am confident that every airman understands we have been called upon once again by our nation.”

Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

"We must interrupt our normal three-month AEF rotation cycle because the resources in a single AEF pair can no longer satisfy the needs of our combatant commands," Jumper said.

The general said the change would likely increase the amount of time many airmen are deployed. But, he added, it is a necessary move and one he feels will be taken in stride by airmen everywhere.

"I know this is a lot to ask, and I am confident that every airman understands we have been called upon once again by our nation," he said. "Our success as an Air Force depends on how we prepare for and execute operations."

Jumper's words echoed those in a message sent by Rumsfeld the same day to people in the Department of Defense.

"In recent weeks and months, the president has called the world's attention to Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq," Rumsfeld said. "He has rallied the United Nations to enforce its resolutions calling for the regime's disarmament."

In light of these developments, DoD leaders recognize the uncertainty longer deployments may create for those in uniform, the civilians who work beside them, and their families, Rumsfeld said.

"Be assured that the president will not decide to commit forces unless conditions require it, and only as a last resort," Rumsfeld said. "Should action be necessary, you will have what you need to carry out the missions assigned."

Jumper said every effort will be made to relieve those deployed in a way that accommodates mission requirements.

"I assure you that we will continue to assess the evolving situation and develop rotation plans which seek to relieve our forces in the most equi-

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Air Force secretary, chief send Columbia message

By Dr. James Roche

Secretary of the Air Force and

Gen. John Jumper

Air Force chief of staff

On Saturday, Feb. 1, our nation and the world lost seven courageous, talented individuals when the Space Shuttle Columbia Orbiter (STS-107) experienced catastrophic failure 15 minutes prior to landing at Kennedy Space Center, Fla. Among these brave astronauts were two officers from the Air Force family: Col. Rick Husband, mission commander, from Amarillo, Texas; and Lt. Col. Michael Anderson, payload commander, from Spokane, Wash.

On behalf of the men and women of the U.S. Air Force, we offer our deepest condolences to our Air Force family members Evelyn Husband and her children Laura and Matthew, and Sandra Anderson and her children Sydney and Kaycee.

We stand together with all Americans in offering our prayers for the families, friends, and co-workers of those lost in this tragic accident. We will never forget their great contributions to our nation and the world.

While we are deeply saddened by this tragic loss, we are also very proud of the Air Force team that has tirelessly assisted in the response to this national tragedy.

Air Force Space Command units from Peterson, Buckley, and Patrick Air Force Bases provided tracking data as part of the accident investigation. Tanker units from Birmingham, Ala., and fighter squadrons from Texas and Louisiana supported a number of search and recovery actions. We've also flown communications support out of Texas and Oklahoma and provided airlift support from McGuire AFB. Barksdale AFB provided part of the Initial Response Teams supporting the Texas Department of Public Safety in recovery efforts, and continues to function as the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Conse-



Graphic by Leslie Benito

Space Shuttle Columbia astronauts and U.S. Air Force officers Lt. Col. Michael Anderson (left) and Col. Rick Husband are remembered in a joint message by the secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force chief of staff.

quence Management Operations Center and NASA Shuttle Recovery Center. The Air Force family will continue to offer support to the astronaut's families, DoD, NASA, FEMA, and state organizations.

We grieve for our friends and co-workers, but we also join the rest of the world in celebrating seven lives well lived and promise to continue to support the space program's noble mission of discovery.

May God bless the grieving families, our men and women in uniform, and the United States of America.

(Editor's note: The following is a short farewell message to the Brooks community from the outgoing Commander, Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd.)

Dear Brooks Family,

Not all of you were able to attend the change of command during which Col. Tom Travis became the commander of the mighty 311th Human Systems Wing and the ranking uniformed officer on Brooks City-Base. I regret that you may have missed this important event because it marked a significant transition in the history of Brooks.

But the reason I write now is not to tell you what a great party you missed but to share a couple of thoughts. The first is that the Wing and base are in good hands. Col. Travis is one of the most accomplished, talented officers in our business. He is a hard-core operational aerospace medicine expert and advocate who brings the additional strength of being an experienced pilot. He has expertise, credibility with the line, exceptional leadership skills and a clear vision for the future. He will be a tremendous leader for the coming years and will help you move the science and reality of aerospace medicine much further than it is now.

The fact he is a colonel and not a general officer is, at most, a minor inconvenience.

The position will remain a general officer slot and will be filled by a GO in the future. For now, Col Travis is the absolute best there is, and that's why he is in the job.

The importance of what we do is in no way diminished nor is the demand for our products

and services. To the contrary, given the world situation and the nature of the war in which we are engaged, what we do will become ever more relevant in the future. These are busy times.

As for me, knowing the quality of people here at Brooks, I can leave with a clear conscience — albeit with a heavy heart — and know my "family" will be well cared for.

Kate and I have loved our tour here, but three and a half years is more than we had any right to expect. We would like to thank everyone on the City-Base and in the community for making this the high point of our professional and personal lives.

It is hard for me, even now, to convey the satisfaction of going to work every day surrounded by some of the best, brightest, most dedicated people in the world doing an important mission...a mission that has clear and immediate relevance to preserving both lives and democracy. The opportunity to serve here was a gift we will forever remember and treasure.

To all of you, Kate, Caitlin, Cameron and I would like to say thank you very much for everything you have all done for our family and those we all serve.

Until we meet again, God bless.



Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd



Leadership change refocuses Brooks' commitment to mission, warfighters

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

As change of command ceremony participants watched in silent admiration the performance of the Air Force Drill Team, the 311th Human Systems Wing's new commander recognized the symbolism revealed in the demonstration that is relevant to how he views leadership.

"Leaders must have confidence, vision and an ability to get out in front and lead people," said Col. Tom Travis conveying the analogy of the drill team commander, "He's the guy in the middle facing the drill team's rifles with fixed bayonets. He knows their capabilities and trusts them implicitly. He has trained them and stays in their midst." This hands-on commitment of support to team members while not avoiding inherent risks associated with mission fulfillment is at the core of Travis's leadership views.

"I'm mission focused. It drives everything that I do," he said, explaining that mission focus equates to goals. "The mission of the Wing is clear. Our primary focus or goal is to provide for an overwhelmingly effective warfighter."

That effectiveness translates, in part, to how well the 311th HSW continues to fulfill its crucial role in human performance and human systems integration supported by aerospace medicine research.

"I started out as a life support officer. I have always been concerned as a pilot and doctor about mission performance enhancement and safety. There must be a clear interface between weapons systems and humans," he noted.

Experience has taught Travis the importance of weapon systems integration that maximizes aviators' capabilities and effectiveness.

As an Air Force pilot-physician, Travis has flown highly complex combat aircraft including F-4s, F-15s, F-16s and the Royal Air Force's Hawk, the latter as part of test work he conducted in the United Kingdom for the Eurofighter program.

He gained further appreciation for the efficacy of reliable aviation equipment during his 311th Human Systems Program Office work involving cockpit and life support issues supporting the F-22 program.

His confidence as the Wing's new leader is buoyed by the breadth of experiences he gained through multiple assignments here.

"Technically, I'm very comfortable with these areas," he said, referring to the type of work being conducted by the Air Force Research Laboratory, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine and the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis and the SPO.

"We have to build upon what Brig. Gen. Dodd has done. He's done a wonderful job of establishing credibility for the Wing. Now we have to take it to the next level. We have to focus



Photo by Senior Airman Brandy Bogart

Brooks' new leadership, Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Hollins and 311th Human Systems Wing Commander Col. Thomas Travis shake hands following the change of command ceremony Feb. 6 at Hangar 9.



"Airmen should be solutions-oriented. Instead of making complaints, they should make suggestions to improve something by providing potential solutions," he said. "NCOs must be participative leaders. They need to get to know their people, expressing their expectations and providing them periodic feedback. Senior NCOs, while managers, must sometimes roll up their sleeves and do bench-level work."

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Hollins
Command Chief

like a laser beam on our primary capability of providing aerospace and operational medicine expertise. We must provide the leadership for what aerospace medicine will be in the future," Travis said.

This must be done, he explained, in concert with the vision and requirements of the line of the Air Force and the Air Force Surgeon

General.

"We had better be in tight formation with the line and the surgeon general."

This collective focus must be aimed at supporting the Air Expeditionary Force. Any other mission or requirement not related to AEF support is a distraction, Travis said.

"I think we have to work at being more responsive. We need to figure out ways to work smarter," Travis said, referring to adapting to ever-changing situations and requirements that impact the Brooks community's capabilities for delivering products, knowledge and course work to customers.

A key member of Travis's new leadership team who shares the Wing commander's leadership philosophy is Chief Master Sgt. Richard Hollins, the Wing's new command chief.

Hollins previously served with Travis as USAFSAM's group superintendent.

Imbued with a strong work ethic and commitment to mission execution, Hollins possesses the qualities required of the base's command chief.

Hollins is committed to what his predecessor told him: "Take care of your people and take care of your boss."

As command chief, Hollins advises the wing commander on enlisted issues affecting more than 600 personnel, ranging from morale to discipline to training and readiness. Hollins says his leadership style is situational, meaning he takes a more hands-on approach with individuals who demonstrate they need clear guidance.

Although his expectations of the enlisted corps are dependent upon grade level, but his expectations are clear.

"Airmen should be solutions-oriented. Instead of making complaints, they should make suggestions to improve something by providing potential solutions," he said.

"I'm mission focused. It drives everything that I do. The mission of the Wing is clear. Our primary focus or goal is to provide for an overwhelmingly effective warfighter."

Col. Thomas Travis
Commander

311th Human Systems Wing

"NCOs must be participative leaders. They need to get to know their people, expressing their expectations and providing them periodic feedback. Senior NCOs, while managers, must sometimes roll up their sleeves and do bench-level work."

Hollins views his job as multi-dimensional. He is focused on being the conduit for enlisted concerns.

"I'm the connection between Brooks' enlisted personnel, their families and the wing leadership," he said.

Hollins considers himself the voice of the Brooks enlisted force.

"To keep our personnel motivated, we need to demonstrate we care. It's a proven fact that career advancement, training opportunities, and quality of life are key factors in job enrichment."

Hollins added that Brooks offers more enlisted career opportunities than many other bases comparable in size. He encourages professional development through education and training, as well as volunteerism throughout the enlisted corps.

However, Hollins clearly defined his priorities.

"My number one priority is the enlisted force supporting the warfighter. Our personnel impact the warfighter on many levels and our support is needed now probably more than ever," he said.

While Hollins' other priorities involve improving Base Operating Support and maintaining military customs and courtesies, his primary focus, above all, is supporting the warfighter.

The first commanders call under the new leadership is Feb. 20 at the base fitness center. Two sessions are scheduled in order to accommodate all Brooks personnel.

The first session, which begins at 1 p.m. is for military members E-5 and below, as well as civilians employees GS-5 and below. All others will attend the 2:30 p.m. session.



We SALUTE you!



Civilians of the Quarter Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2002



Category I Student Aide
Ariana Soto
311th HSW/FMF



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Jacqueline Vega
311th Medical Squadron



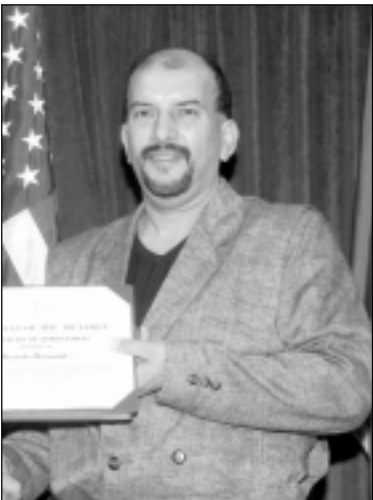
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311th MSG/SVF



Category V GS-13
Ruben Chapa
311th HSW/FMF



Category VII NAF
Ricardo Hernandez
311th MSG/SVRMC

Changes

Continued from Page 1

Admitting he has the rare privilege of maintaining continuity by moving from one command to another at the same base, Travis said he is ready for even greater challenges.

“This is a particularly crucial time for Brooks and the 311th. Our partnerships are becoming even more vital to our mission’s success. I firmly believe for us to succeed we must enhance our existing partnerships and build new ones. One of our most important partnerships at this juncture is indeed the city of San Antonio. Brooks City-Base is just getting started. I’m excited about it. The institutions and

the businesses that are attracted to the City-Base are crucial to the success of this Wing, and it is an experiment. The whole nation is watching to see if it works.

If it does work, Brooks will be a model for other DoD installations. If it works well, our Wing, the city of San Antonio, the U.S. Air Force and the country will benefit.”

Travis made clear, however, that his top priority is supporting the warfighter.

“We are here to provide for an overwhelmingly effective warfighter. I’m extremely proud of what this Wing is doing today and what it is poised to do tomorrow to support the air warrior,” he said.

Deployments

Continued from Page 1

table fashion while still meeting combatant commanders’ warfighting requirements,” he said. “Although AEF rotation timing will change, we will make every effort to preserve the AEF sequence which will give us the ability to sustain our operations over the long term. When able, we will return to a more normalized three-month AEF battle rhythm.”

Although that rhythm is intended to provide airmen and their families with a predictable schedule for deployments, resulting in a more normal lifestyle, an implicit understanding is that increased operations tempo changes everything, Jumper said.

“Sustaining on-going requirements with three-month rotations has become part of our Air Force culture,” Jumper said. “But we need to remember that the AEF structure also allows us to posture for a full range of combat operations, including major theater contingencies that require more forces than can be provided by one AEF pair on a three-month rotation.”

It is a national security matter, he said, one in which the efforts of the entire Air Force team will be needed.

“I have never been (more proud) of our Air Force and of the great men and women that bring America’s resolve to the doorsteps of those who would seek to inflict harm upon us and our allies,” he said. “I know you are all equal to the task, and I look forward to seeing our great Air Force continue to successfully defend American values and freedoms.”



Unit information security managers recognized for role in protecting assets

By Eleanor Meredith
311th Security Forces Squadron

More than 30 unit commanders, staff agency chiefs, and directors at Brooks appointed more than 70 or more primary and alternate security managers to manage units security programs, resulting in additional duties for the appointed individuals.

Security managers develop and update unit operating instructions, advise unit heads on security issues in the unit, attend meetings, update policies and procedures, oversee self-inspections, report incidents, assist during incident investigations and participate in security education training.

The goal of the Information Security Program is to protect Air Force information by delegating authority to the lowest levels possible. The program encourages the use of risk management principles, focuses on identifying and protecting appropriate information and integrating security procedures into business processes so they are transparent. Security man-



Courtesy photo

Patricia Martinez, 68th Information Operations Squadron, receives her award for Security Manager of the Year from former 311th Human Systems Wing Commander Brig. Gen Lloyd Dodd.

agers also ensure everyone understands their security roles and responsibilities and takes them seriously.

A recognition program honored those security managers who spend countless hours managing their units' programs. Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, former 311th HSW commander, recognized Erica Richard, 311HSW Intelligence, for the period of April to June, 68th Information Operations Squadron's Patricia Martinez recieved honors for the second quarter, as well as for the Security Manager of the Year. Dodd recognized Tech. Sgt. Milton McLean from Contracting for the fourth quarter.

DoD tests stateside space-A travel

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Leas
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFPN) — Defense transportation officials recently announced a one-year test to expand space-available travel privileges to family members traveling within the continental United States.

The test will begin April 1 and continue through March 31.

Dependents of active-duty and retired military people will soon be able to travel "Space A" aboard military flights when accompanied by their sponsors, according to John Lundebly from the Air Mobility Command passenger policy branch.

The only change is that family members can now fly on flights within the United States under the same eligibility category as their sponsor, he said.

Lundebly explained that in December 2000, the commander of U.S. Transportation Command outlined the proposal as a way to improve quality-of-life benefits for military service people and their families.

After review, Defense officials approved a one-year test.

"Current regulations prohibit dependents from flying space available within the CONUS," said Lundebly.

"This privilege was available only to active-duty and retired military people. During the test period, dependents can accompany them."

Retirees may sign up for this program 60 days in advance but not before the test officially begins April 1.

To register for space-available travel, active-duty sponsors must be on leave or a pass and remain in the status while awaiting travel and through the entire travel period.

Additional Space-A travel and sign-up information is available through AMC's public Web site at: <http://amcpublic.scott.af.mil/index.html>.

The website provides tips for traveling Space-A, base Space-A telephone numbers, answers to frequently asked questions, baggage restrictions, general eligibility requirememnts and more general information.

(Courtesy of AMC News Service)



AFMC commander lauds portal capability

By Gen. Lester Lyles
Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — I recently told you my commander’s intent for transformation within Air Force Materiel Command, listing four expectations to improve our support to the warfighter.

Among those are our goals to become more effective and efficient and to make our command easier to do business with. The experts in our information technology directorate and the Materiel Systems Group have teamed efforts to do just that by integrating us into the Air Force Portal.

Last year we embarked on an AFMC Portal initiative designed to streamline business processes and achieve significant savings by consolidating or eliminating web servers. We have since joined forces with the Air Force chief information officer at the Pentagon to integrate what we have accomplished to date with the Air Force Portal. It’s a win for AFMC and a win for our Air Force.

Our three original portal objectives remain intact: 1) to establish standard web views with consistent look and feel and distinctive AFMC branding, 2) to implement a powerful content management capability, ensuring our web content remains current and relevant, and 3) to provide a common platform for delivering future web applications and capabilities. We will achieve these objectives in three phases.

During phase one, AFMC headquarters and other selected units here will participate in the Air Force Portal pilot program along with Air Combat Command headquarters and selected

units at Langley Air Force Base, Va. Participating units other than AFMC headquarters will include the Aeronautical Systems Center, Air Force Research Laboratory and the Air Force Security Assistance Center.

The purpose of the pilot program is to register a large number of users and start getting feedback on Air Force Portal capabilities while assessing impacts of servicing a large user community.

The current version of the Air Force Portal will provide a single window for you to access a wide range of information across different web sites. This information includes: military and civilian pay and benefits information, space-available travel sites and reservation information, TRICARE sites and other medical and health information, and access to self-service applications like LeaveWeb, Thrift Savings Account Access, myPay and more.

The portal pulls together information for Air Force people into a single site. Target date for achieving phase one was Feb. 3.

During phase two, we position ourselves to achieve real business value from the portal by capitalizing on work already accomplished within AFMC. We will stand up a production content management system here and help do the same at Gunter Annex, Ala.

In parallel, we will help the Air Force CIO implement the AFMC workspace model. This model will consist of four web views: job, workspace, knowledge and reference.

The workspace views will eventually provide AFMC people with personalized content and applications directly related to managing their Air Force careers and accomplishing their day-to-day work.

The goal for achieving phase two is March 25, but we’re working hard to do it sooner. When that is complete, we will begin moving existing web content to the portal, and we will create links to the various applications our

“The Air Force Portal cuts through the clutter of online information, offering consistent, user-friendly navigation through a wealth of knowledge. This will help us do our jobs better and improve our quality of life.”

Gen. Lester Lyles
Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

users need to do their jobs.

Finally, during phase three, we’ll continue migrating web content and start fully integrating web capabilities into the common platform and workspace model built during phase two. This final phase is a long-term effort and may actually include a number of individual steps.

I am committed to the Air Force Portal because it drives business value through web server elimination. It also sets the stage for transforming AFMC business processes.

Unlike web sites, where some information may be irrelevant, the Air Force Portal will offer registered users each a site that knows them. The Portal offers self-service, allowing our people to take care of business without waiting in lines, on the phone or struggling with red tape. It makes getting services and finding information on line easier, and offers meaningful, relevant content.

The Air Force Portal cuts through the clutter of online information, offering consistent, user-friendly navigation through a wealth of knowledge. This will help us do our jobs better and improve our quality of life.

I need everyone across AFMC to get behind this important command and Air Force initiative. The Air Force Portal is personal, powerful and essential.

Brooks community needed for quality of life indicators survey

On 22 July 22, 2002 the ownership of Brooks changed. This change may or may not have a significant impact on the Quality of Life at this installation.

In early 2002 a quality of life survey was conducted and data from that survey forms the baseline for future surveys to be compared against. The survey is to be conducted annually and the results used to track Quality of Life indicators at Brooks City-Base.

You are asked to participate in this 2003 web-based survey, which can be accessed at: <https://libra.brooks.af.mil/bcbpsurvey>.

The entire survey should take less than five minutes to complete.

The survey is available anytime through February 21. Individual responses will be treated anonymously and only group data will be reported.

For additional information, contact Herb Klein at 536-6629 or Brian Raabe at 536-1936.



Heart Link

The Brooks Family Support Center presents a military spouses orientation program for military spouses married less than five years.

**March 19
8 a.m. - noon
Brooks Family Support Center
Bldg. 537**

Lunch will be provided and day care may be available.
Contact Tech. Sgt. Austin Peoples at 536-2444 to register.



ACTION LINE

536-2222



The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

Col. Thomas Travis
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Mission Support Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	533-4100
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-5778
Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
BX Market.....	533-9079
Brooks Development Office.....	536-3372
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444
for information

Single parent group

Feb. 18, 11a.m. - 1 p.m., Chapel—

Military and civilian single parents are invited to a morale booster at the Chapel. Parents can meet other parents and exchange ideas. The event is sponsored by the Chapel, Life Skills Support and the Family Support Center.

Elder care

Feb. 24, 11a.m. - noon, Chapel—

Are you a long-distance caregiver or do you foresee making an older, loved one a dependent? If so, make plans to attend this seminar. This is a great opportunity to talk with experts in the field of aging. Information on Alzheimer's Disease, Medicaid and Medicare, Bexar County Area Agency on Aging will be presented, as well as other topics in the health care field.

Smooth move

Feb. 27, 12:30 - 3 p.m., Bldg 537—
(Pre-registering a must)

PCSing? Hear briefings from travel management, legal, the clinic, finance, housing and the Family Support Center and ask your questions. This class is open to all active duty members, DoD civilians, and spouses.

PCS Overseas

Feb. 27, 3 - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Any move can be stressful, but an overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by attending the Smooth Move Seminar and staying after for this class.

Bundles for babies, expectant parents session

March 12, 8 a.m. - noon, Bldg. 537—

Active duty Air Force couples with a newborn or expecting a child should plan on attending this Air Force Aid Society sponsored class. Get information about budgeting, basic baby care, infant development, effective parenting, car seat regulations and more.

Brooks City-Base and community job fair

April 11, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Hangar 9—

Whether you are seeking employment now or gathering information for future career decisions, make this job fair a part of your transition/job search strategy. Where else can you reach so many employers in a single event? The community job fair is open to active duty and retired military, DoD civilian personnel, family members and the public.



Brooks Tax Center open for business

The Brooks Tax Center, located in Bldg. 912, is now open for business. The center operates Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-4:30 p.m. They also have late hours Wednesdays from 5-6:30 p.m.

The tax center assists clients with simple federal income tax returns for electronic filing or paper returns on an appointment basis. Since the center is run by volunteers, customers are asked to be patient when scheduling appointments.

The center is open to military members, retirees and family members. Appointments for civilian employees begin Mar. 11.

Call 536-8696 to schedule an appointment.

We will prepare:
— Form 1040EZ

- Form 1040 A with Sch 1, 2, 3 & EIC
- Form 1040 with Sch A, B, R & SE
- Form 1040-V
- Form 2441 (Child/Dependant Care Credit)
- Form 8863 (Education Credits)
- Form 8812 (Additional Child Tax Credit)

- We CANNOT Prepare:**
- Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business)
 - Schedule D (Capital Gains & Losses)
 - Schedule E (Rents & Losses)
 - Form SS-5 (Request, social security number)
 - Form 2106 (Employee Business Expense)
 - Form 3903 (Moving)
 - Form 1040-ES
 - Form 8606 (Nondeductible IRA)
 - Form 8615 (Minor's Investment Income)

Individuals with these forms are encouraged to seek professional assistance.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Sold to the highest bidder — Outdoor Recreation's Dennis Chapoy, left, shows retired Kelly Air Force Base worker Eddie De La Rosa one of the vehicles being auctioned this week and next. De La Rosa is among many people participating in the sealed bid auction that ends today.



MPF NEWS

Hours of operation

Military Personnel Flight hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:15 a.m. - 4 p.m. except Wednesdays when the MPF closes at 3 p.m. for training.

Virtual record of emergency data

A new procedure for updating emergency data information has been implemented Air Force-wide. The DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data, has been replaced by vRED. Brooks active duty military personnel were required to log into vRED by Feb. 2. The vRED is an automated program that guides users through emergency contact information and tailors questions to unique family situations. Questions can be directed to customer service at 536-1845, Brooks casualty assistance representative Wanda Jackson at 536-2447 or the Air Force Personnel Center contact center at DSN 665-1239 or 1-866-229-7074.

FSGLI

The Family Members Servicemember's Group Life Insurance premium allotment starts automatically for any member who has a spouse listed in his or her DEERs data file. All married members, including members married to other military members are automatically insured and should be paying premiums. If they are not, it's usually because they are not listed in the member's DEERs file or have declined the coverage in writing, and should be updated immediately. Mil-to-Mil couples who have not declined FSGLI coverage in writing and are not paying premiums are fully insured and accruing a debt by not paying monthly

premiums. FSGLI premium deductions are listed on the LES as Discretionary Allotment.

High year tenure

As of Dec. 23, enlisted grades of senior airmen, technical sergeant, master sergeant and senior master sergeant are authorized to serve on active duty to their new high year tenure for grades with effective dates on or after Jan. 1. They are as follows: senior airman, 12 years; technical sergeant, 24 years, master sergeant, 26 years and senior master sergeant, 28 years.

The HYT for staff sergeants and chief master sergeants remains 20 years and 30 years respectively. Personnel who have used or expended funds using separations or retirement orders or have departed on terminal leave/permissive TDY will not be allowed to remain on active duty with this change. Personnel with approved retirements on file, retiring because of previous high year tenure, may request to withdraw their retirement. Contact Airman 1st Class Dae Paek or Tech. Sgt. Sharon Portell at 536-3187 or 536-3150 for assistance.

Dress and appearance

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance, Air Force personnel are prohibited from pursuing body alterations and modifications that disfigure, deform or otherwise detract from a professional military image. Alterations include forking or splitting tongues, filing teeth or implanting objects under skin.

For more information, contact the MPF customer service section at 536-1845.



Brooks Youth Center playground gets a facelift

By Rita Boland
Staff writer

Members of the 311th Mission Support Group took time out from saving the world recently to make Brooks a safer place for children. The 311th MSG personnel tilled, raked and pulled weeds around the playground equipment outside Brooks Youth Services Center.

“It’s overly compact,” said Feletia McLaurin, coordinator of the School Age Program at Brooks, referring to the area under the playground equipment. When the ground is not shock absorbent, the area becomes dangerous for the children.

When McLaurin addressed the problem to Services Director John Robinnette, he referred the problem to 311MSG Commander Col. John Bowley.

“They asked for a few thousand dollars,” Bowley said. “I said let’s do it as a detail instead. Rather than spend a lot of money I felt this would be a good way to show volunteerism, and it’s working.” The Youth Center rented the tillers and more than 100 MSG members did the work.

“Certainly this is good for morale,” said Maj. Ian Sablad, commander of the 311th Communication Squadron. “Something like this is really good for the kids.” The other volunteers shared Sablad’s sentiments. “I definitely think this is a good project,” said Tech. Sgt. Milo Jenkins, also of the 311thCS.



Courtesy photo

Members of the 311th Mission Support Group take an afternoon to restore the grounds of the playground outside Brooks Youth Services Center.

“With the few people who work here it’s hard to keep up,” McLaurin said. “MSG is doing a great job. No one is complaining. Some even brought their own water.”

The laborers had the opportunity to show off their effort immediately to a family visiting Brooks. Capt. Linda Chatfield, assigned to Wilford Hall, and her husband, Joseph, a reservist at Randolph Air Force Base, brought their two children to the park that afternoon. “Someone at Wilford Hall told me this was a great park,” Capt. Chatfield said. The couple was impressed with the work they saw.

“Especially in this day and age, we’re tasked to do a lot more with a lot less,” Joseph said. “It’s made military life a lot harder. Things like this really do help. With increased deployments, as much as they can do with family services like this, the better.”

The Youth Services Center has 13 children enrolled in the after school program, but serves 110 children during the summer.

Education
notes

By Carolyn Croft-Foster
Brooks Education
Services Office
536-3617

ACCD Flex 2 2003 Registration

The Alamo Community College District Flex 2 registration is underway. Semester begins March 10 and ends May 11. On-base classes include Speech, Art Appreciation, US History II and Ethics. Tuition Assistance covers the full cost of tuition for ACCD classes. Students should request TA 48 hours prior to registration. The ACCD representative visits Brooks Tuesdays. The next TASP exam is scheduled for Feb. 18. Call 536-3617 for an appointment.

St Mary’s University MBA Program

The director of the St. Mary’s Univesity’s MBA program will

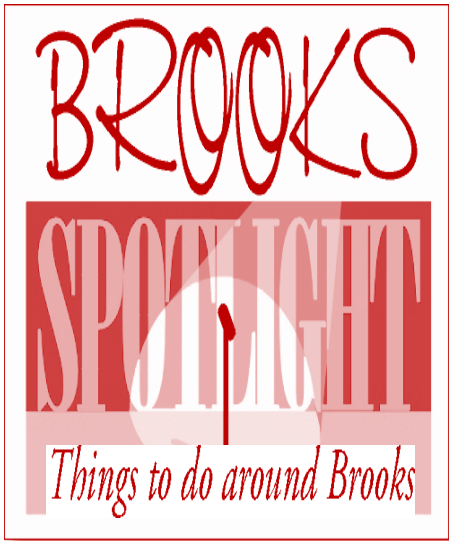
hold an information session at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 19 in Bldg. 558. Call 536-3617 for information.

Changes for OTS/ ROTC application

All non-technical boards are suspended until Oct. 2003. Officer training school continues to accept applications for pilot, navigator, and technical career fields. All non-technical selects’ class assignments are on hold until Aug. 2003. Potential applicants who met with guidance counselors should schedule follow-up appointments to see how the changes affect their packages. OTS is still accepting applications for Air Battle Managers and Space and Missile Systems. Call 536-3617 for details.

CCAF Spring graduation deadline

The deadline for Community College of the Air Force Spring 2003 graduation is Feb. 21. Nominations must be at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., by that date. Students who completed classes and believe they are a degree candidate should contact Education Services to ensure their nominations have been submitted.



By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

Brooks will soon have its own indoor Mini Storage facility. Bldg. 1134 will be converted to rental storage units and Services will rent 6' x 12' units for \$45 and 12' x 12' units for \$70. Watch for the grand opening in March. Contact Dennis Chapoy, Outdoor Recreation Manager, at 536-2881 for more details.

Child Development Center

Bldg. 502, 536-2736

The Child Development Center celebrates 21 years in the current building and honors remaining original staff members, director Mary Cline and caregiver Patty Hanson during its annual open house, scheduled for

Feb. 19 from 9 to 11 a.m. Parents are encouraged to come for refreshments and visit their children's homerooms.

Photos are scheduled for Feb. 26 and 27, beginning at 9 a.m. both days for children who attend the center. Parents will receive a 2003 linen calendar with their child's photo on it.

Base Library

Bldg. 705, 536-2634

The library plans a "Books Are Fun" Book Fair Feb. 19 and 20 from noon to 6 p.m. Selections from a variety of cookbooks, educational books and toys for children are discounted.

Children's Story hour is scheduled for March 16 at 2:30 p.m. at the library. Children two-four years of age are invited to come and listen to stories read by our staff. Mark your calendar and bring the wee ones to Story Time. Call for information.

March is Women's History Month and the library featur's books and displays to honor women who have made our world a better place. Stop by and read about the many women who helped create the wonderful world we live in today.

Concessionaires, rent a space in the library lobby and display crafts and wares during normal library business hours. Contact Librarian Joanna Hansen or Becky Estrada, Premiere Designs, at 536-2120.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Join us for a Cultural Arts Showcase and Dinner Feb. 15. with a dinner buffet from 6 to 8 p.m. and mu-

sic by Second Nature until 11 p.m. African-American art, clothing and writings will be on display during the evening. Cost is \$10 for club members and \$12.50 for non-members.

Family Child Care

Bldg. 510, 536-2041

The Family Child Care Program has seven affiliated licensed providers with vacancies for children ages 6 six weeks to 12 years. A list of providers is available at the office, the Child Development Center, in Bldg. 502, or the Youth Center, Bldg. 470. Assistance is available at the Family Child Care Office Monday- Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Free Child Care

If you are arriving at or departing Brooks and need assistance with childcare, 20 free hours of child care is available through licensed affiliated providers on base. They will provide 20 hours of free childcare for each child of all military members, regardless of rank. Forms and eligibility certificates can be picked up at the Family Support Center, on the first floor of Bldg. 537. For questions regarding affiliated providers or for more information on becoming a provider contact Jeanie Smith at 536-2041.

BXmarket

Bldg. 660, 533-9079

The BXmarket is offering a test of Early Bird Hours Feb. 3 through 28. The store is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Feature



Brooks Personality PROFILE



Crane

Q&A

FULL NAME:

Sgt. Carrie Catherine Crane

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:

Laboratory animal technician, U.S. Army Element Naval Activities Pentagon with duty at Naval Health Research Detachment, Brooks

WHAT IS MY JOB?:

I'm a veterinary technician at the NHRC-DET

BIRTHDAY:

Dec. 9, 1972

HOMETOWN:

Addison, New York

FAMILY STATUS:

I'm married with one child, Bryce, and one step child, Brent, who lives in Penn. I also take care of my mother, who lives with us.

MOTTO:

Believe in yourself.

INSPIRATIONS:

My family and close friends

HOBBIES:

Reading, playing with my son and swimming

PET PEEVE:

Anything dirty, and lazy people

BOOK(S) AT BEDSIDE:

Southcross and Street Lawyer

I JOINED THE MILITARY BECAUSE:

of the educational benefits and to see the world.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:

to be commissioned as an officer

ULTIMATE GOAL:

to have my Master's degree in education

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:

first, buy my husband a new truck, then I'd buy all my siblings a house and car and get their lives on track. Then, I'd put the rest away for a rainy day. I might have to have a shopping spree at the mall(s) first though.

MY FAVORITE MUSIC:

Country and classic rock

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:

is working full-time and caring for my extended family.

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:

I don't consider them a possession, but I'd have to say my family.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

By Rita Boland

Staff writer

Sgt. Carrie Crane has two sides. On one hand, she's outgoing, funny and friendly. However, she also has a strong Type-A personality, takes her work and family very seriously and has dealt with some difficult issues throughout her life.

"You've just got to learn to laugh it off," Crane said.

Crane is the oldest of five children and she had the responsibility of helping to raise her siblings.

"I have kept my family together," Crane said.

Crane grew up in rural New York around farm animals, which prepared Crane for her job as an animal technician in the Army. Like many soldiers from large families, Crane joined the military to finance her college education. Originally, she planned to enlist in the Air Force.

"I went to join the Air Force and the recruiter was still out to lunch," Crane said. "The Army and Air Force were in the same building. The Army recruiter came out and talked me right into it."

Her plans took another turn when the Army informed her they didn't need any nurse practitioners at that time, her original career choice, and she began to work with animals.

"I've been experiencing all the different aspects of the animal world," Crane said.

Crane's co-workers call her Martha Stewart, because she wasn't

pleased with the warehouse look of the, well, warehouse.

"It was like a dungeon. I said I'm not changing in here."

To improve the condition of the workplace locker room/ bathroom she brought in rugs and had her husband put down tile.

"They all tease me here. I like everything really clean," Crane said.

Despite the friendly ribbing, Crane has earned the respect of her co-workers and commander.

"(Crane) has a positive, infectious 'can do' attitude, she always volunteers for jobs, takes a great personal pride in her work, truly cares for the animals, and is a pleasure to have at this detachment," said Cmdr. Vincent DeInnocentiis, officer in charge of the Naval Health Research Center Detachment.

Crane is truly an Army of One, working at the Naval Detachment on Brooks. She has spent her 11-year military career working in a joint-service environment, including another stint with the Navy in Japan.

"I think I'm really lucky to live and work in a tri-service environment," Crane said. "I kind of know something about all the branches."

Living overseas taught Crane the value of America.

"I've always appreciated being an American, but I didn't appreciate the value of America," she explained.

"People who talk against the government...they should go live in another country."

She also has increased appreciation for the sacrifices of military

families.

"The Navy is pretty impressive, Crane said.

"They put a small city out to float. Whether it's war or peacetime (the families) are separated. The women have to learn to take care of the family and then they have to learn to be wives again."

Crane is learning to be a wife gain herself. Her husband came home at the end of January after working a job for several months in Laredo.

During his absence, Crane took care of their 3-year-old son, her mother and her sister.

"He's going to be a dad and a husband again," she said.

Despite the separation, the Cranes have found a home here in Texas. They bought their first house, too.

"We love Texas," Crane said. "We bought a house on the southeast side of town. It was scary because what if we got orders right away. That was the only thing that was scary."

Crane views the military and San Antonio as a good place for her family. Growing up in her small town, she didn't experience much diversity.

"I've seen a whole lot of things since I've been in the military," Crane said.

"My son goes to school with all kinds of kids and he thinks nothing of it. I think everyone should have to do two years mandatory (in the military). It teaches discipline and respect."

Crane also takes full advantage of Brooke Army Medical Center on Fort Sam Houston because her son has chronic ear infections and also had meningitis. The health care is a big reason she stayed in the military.

"It was \$40 to have my son," Crane said. "I've always had good experiences in the military."

She also appreciates that the military understands that she has familial obligations and assists her when practical.

Crane hopes to go overseas again before she retires. She's like to go to Hawaii or Germany or return to Japan. "I'd go back in a second. I'd like to take my son there," Crane said.

Wherever she goes she'll bring a positive attitude - and a lot of cleaning supplies.

Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil



Challenger Center serves as site for Columbia crew remembrance



Photos by Rudy Purificato

The Space Shuttle Columbia appears to be in flight over the memorial table set up at the Challenger Learning Center at Brooks Feb. 3. Visiting students and members of the Brooks community visited the Challenger Center to pay their respects to the Columbia crewmembers who died Feb. 1. The registry from the memorial, along with a notebook of condolence letters, will eventually be forwarded to the Columbia crew's families.

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Handmade sympathy cards, a teddy bear adorned in patriotic colors, letters of condolence and a huge floral display became part of the Challenger Learning Center's décor Feb. 3 as San Antonio students and Brooks community members demonstrated an outpouring of sympathy for the loss of space shuttle Columbia's courageous crew.

The weeklong memorial tribute here was part of a national commemoration initiated by the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, headquartered in Alexandria, Va., following the tragic loss of Columbia Feb. 1.

"Our national headquarters contacted us to make our center available to the public," said Shelia Klein, Brooks Heritage Foundation executive director.

The Challenger Learning Center of San Antonio, operated by the non-profit Brooks Aerospace Foundation, is one of 47 centers in the world that were given the opportunity to serve as Columbia memorial venues.

The centerpiece for the local memorial tribute was a guest registry that had been placed on a table beneath a giant mural-size photo of Columbia, the latter showcased on a wall near the facility's entrance.

"The Brooks Aerospace Foundation provided the floral display here and

another one in Hangar 9 adjacent to the Columbia model," Klein said.

The memorial was specifically designed to give students who visited the center an opportunity to express their feelings about the tragedy, Klein explained.

Among sympathy cards produced by sixth grade students from Northeast Independent School District's Connolly Middle School was one simply titled "We Care." Addressed to the families of the Columbia crew, it said, "We share your sorrow. We are really sad about the Columbia accident. We wish you well."

According to Connolly Middle School head counselor Jeanette Lawrence, the 140 students who visited the Challenger Center during the week following the Columbia disaster are coping well with the tragedy.

"Our sixth graders have not had as much grief as our teachers," Lawrence said, adding, "We sent a (grief) counselor here yesterday (Feb. 3) just in case some of the children had concerns."

Besides students, Brooks community members have shared their feelings in the registry that included a simple message of peace: "Rest, you are now in God's hands."

The registry, along with a notebook of condolence letters, will eventually be forwarded to the Columbia crew's families, Klein said.

While public memorials here ended Feb. 7, the center will briefly serve as

a collection point for additional condolence letters or cards the local community wishes to provide.

Among local expressions of sympathy is the special feeling of loss Klein has experienced.

"Herb and I saw the Columbia land at Edwards Air Force Base (Calif.) at the end of its maiden voyage in 1981," she said, referring to her husband who, at the time, was an

Air Force officer assigned there.

The Kleins also witnessed the Columbia land at Edwards following its second and fourth missions.

"It was fantastic. You wait to hear the sonic boom it makes upon re-entry into our atmosphere. Then you start looking for it," she recalls.

While the Kleins did not know Columbia's crew, they were friends of the late

Challenger commander Dick Scobee.

"When this thing happened on Feb. 1, my first reaction was 'not again.' You almost don't believe it happened," she said, recalling how the 1986 Challenger disaster had been to her the most horrific thing that could happen until the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"This disaster was even more horrific (than the Challenger event) because they (Columbia crew) were so close to home where they lived and trained."

Six of the seven Columbia crewmembers underwent centrifuge training at Brooks prior to their STS-107 mission.

Retired astronaut Dr. Joseph Allen, Challenger Center for Space Science Education chairman, who escorted America's first women in space Sally Ride during their Brooks visit in December, said, "We urge people to heed the words of the family members of the Columbia crew: 'Although we grieve deeply, as do the families of Apollo 1 and Challenger before us, the bold exploration of space must go on. Once the root cause of this tragedy is found and corrected, the legacy of Columbia must carry on for the benefit of our children and yours.'"

A permanent reminder of this legacy is already displayed at all Challenger centers through a wall message that reads: "The mission continues..."

"The mission continues..."

"We urge people to heed the words of the family members of the Columbia crew: 'Although we grieve deeply, as do the families of Apollo 1 and Challenger before us, the bold exploration of space must go on. Once the root cause of this tragedy is found and corrected, the legacy of Columbia must carry on for the benefit of our children and yours'."

Dr. Joseph Allen

Challenger Center for Space Education
chairman and retired astronaut



Jeanette Lawrence, Connolly Middle School head counselor, signs the Columbia Shuttle guest registry at the Challenger Learning Center at Brooks.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



NEWS briefs

Free dental assistant training

The 59th Dental Squadron is accepting applications for the Red Cross Volunteer Dental Assistant Program. Family members of military and civilian employees who would like to become dental assistants are invited to apply for this free training opportunity.

The intensive six-month program includes dental anatomy, dental materials, fourhanded dentistry (the ability to hand dental instruments to the dentist during procedures), and radiographic technique training. Upon graduation, students can take the state radiology test and be fully qualified to take dental x-rays.

The next class begins April 14 and will be held Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Kelly Dental Clinic. After three weeks of classroom training, students continue clinical training at the Kelly, Dunn or Mackown dental clinics.

Applicants will be interviewed from March 10-14. Prospective candidates must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and commit to six months of training.

Contact the Kelly Dental Flight at 925-6647 or 6648 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. for more information.

Altitude test subjects

Altitude test subjects needed: Help provide F-22 pilots, high altitude parachute personnel, high altitude reconnaissance pilots and astronauts with adequate equipment and procedures to accomplish their missions without distraction or hazard resulting from exposure to altitude. Several research protocols are being conducted at the High Altitude Protection Laboratory at Brooks to accomplish this mission.

Hypobaric (altitude) chamber test subjects can earn \$150 per month for participating in at least one session per month. Each subject must meet Air Force body fat or height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 18 and 50 years of age, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Heather Alexander at 536-3440 or Jim Carlile at 536-3546 for more information.

Hospital costs update

Effective October 1, 2002, the daily costs for TRICARE beneficiaries' hospital stays were revised. Listed below are the new costs for inpatient stays.

TRICARE Prime

For active duty family members, there is no copayment for hospital stays, either at a Military Treatment Facility or at a civilian hospital.

For retirees and others, the daily cost at an MTF is \$12.72 per day. At a civilian hospital, the cost is \$11 per day, or \$25 minimum charge per admission, whichever is greater.

Under TRICARE Extra, active duty family members pay \$12.72 per day for care at an MTF or, at a civilian hospital, \$12.72 per day or \$25 minimum charge per admission, whichever is greater.

For retirees and others, the cost per day at an MTF is \$12.72. For hospitalization at a civilian facility, the cost is \$250 per day, or 25% cost share of the total contracted rate charges for institutional services, whichever is less, plus 20% cost share of separately billed professional charges based on the contracted rate.

For TRICARE Standard active duty family members, care at an MTF is \$12.72 per day. At a civilian hospital, the cost is \$12.72 per day or \$25 minimum charge per admission, whichever is greater.

For retirees and others, the cost per day at an MTF is \$12.72. For hospitalization at a civilian facility, the cost is \$417 per day, or 25% cost share of the billed charges, whichever is less, plus 25% cost share of the maximum allowable charge for separately billed professional charges.

Contact your TRICARE service representative for more information or visit the interactive TRICARE website at: www.tricare.osd.mil. With the new handbook feature, members can search for information on TRICARE benefits by either a general or specific search. A contact email address has also been added to the site to further assist members with benefit information.

Sleep study subjects

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers to participate in a number of ongoing sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet the necessary qualifications are eligible to receive compensation starting at \$10 per hour. Contact Laura Sanchez at 536-3616 for additional information, or visit the website at: www.ntiinc.com and link to "studies."

Centrifuge subjects

The Air Force Research Laboratory Biodynamics and Protection Division is in need of active duty volunteers between the ages of 18 and 50 years, able to pass the equivalent of a flying class exam, to participate in several studies, which help in the development of safe life support equipment, protocols and procedures for Air Force aircrew in wartime and peacetime environments. Subjects may earn \$150 hazardous duty pay per month. For more information, contact Suzanne Flores at 536-6258.



Midweek mass

Midweek mass at the Brooks Chapel is held Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Mass is held each First Friday of the month and on holy days of obligation. Mass is open for the entire base Roman Catholic community.

Chapel schedule

Weekdays:

11:30 a.m. — Mass or Eucharistic service

Wednesdays:

12 p.m. — Lifebuilders luncheon
6 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Thursdays:

7:30 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

Sundays:

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass
10:30 a.m. — Catholic religious education
9 a.m. — Protestant Sunday School, ages 3-adult
10:30 a.m. — Protestant Worship, includes children's church

Lifebuilder's series

The Lifebuilder's Lunchtime Series continues Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Contact the Chapel staff for more information.



Stolarski no sidekick to soccer's youthful demands

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems

Even the Energizer Bunny needs a little charge once in a while. Not so with Dave Stolarski whose energy level for a man 53 years young is more than enough to jumpstart any idling teammate whose a bit run down by the competition.

In a sport defined by youthful passion, emotion and high anxiety, Stolarski's calmness within the eye of soccer's unrelenting storm of non-stop action is inspiring. Who among his Brooks teammates could not help but be inspired by a seemingly ageless veteran who recently returned to tournament play after undergoing what medical experts characterized as career-ending spinal surgery.

"My doctor said I could not play again," Stolarski said, referring to surgery last September to repair a ruptured disc in his lower back.

Lackland Air Force Base's "Defender's Cup" tournament, in which Stolarski served as player-coach, tested his physical endurance more than his strength of will.

"I felt OK. I was totally surprised," he said, downplaying his contributions on the field against much younger international athletes who displayed an array of gazelle-like moves.

As his team's sweeper, Stolarski showcased his 'last defender' mentality, a blend of patience, confidence and soccer savvy.

His approach to the game took years to develop, much like the technological processes used in producing the highly precise lasers he operates and maintains as a Brooks contractor supporting the Air Force Research Laboratory Human Effectiveness Directorate.

Yet despite all the accolades and respect Stolarski has augured over the years in becoming one of San Antonio's legendary players, he admits that his early soccer career was quite inauspicious.

"I started playing soccer at (age) eight at St. Hedwigs School," he recalls about a sport that was not popular in the U.S. in the 1950s.

However, it was certainly popular among the Polish and Irish Catholic priests who ran St. Hedwigs and St. Mary's High School that he attended in his native St. Louis.

The oldest of four children born to Vincent and Irene Stolarski, young Dave took to soccer like a duck takes to water. At first, he wasn't a very good player but his love of the sport fueled his desire to get better while seizing every opportunity to play the game, be it for church or club teams.

Eventually, he made his high school varsity soccer team in his junior year, but only as a substitute.

In 1968, Stolarski moved to San Antonio after earning an academic scholarship to St. Mary's University, resulting in a bachelor of arts degree in psychology.

More important to him at the time was earning the respect of the university's club team composed mostly of international students, including highly skilled players from Peru and Mexico.



Courtesy photo

Brooks' soccer coach Dave Stolarski in action at St. Mary's University in 1983. During his last two years at St. Mary's, Stolarski was selected to the Texas Collegiate Soccer League All-Star team.

"Those guys treated me good. I was an oddity to them, an American who knew how to play soccer," he said.

No varsity soccer program existed then. The club team represented the university against Southwest Conference Division I schools.

"I was an unskilled center midfielder, but I could run forever," admits Stolarski.

His teammates, who nicknamed him "Punk," tutored him. He gradually learned the nuances and demands of the sport.

"I learned the importance of fitness. If you are not fit, you're going to get injured. I played every minute of every game," he said, referring to 16-20 game seasons in which Stolarski was the "Iron Man" of collegiate soccer.

His hard work and tenacity paid off. During his last two years at St. Mary's, Stolarski was selected to the Texas Collegiate Soccer League All-Star team.

His reputation as a player led to St. Mary's hiring him as a part-time soccer coach in 1974, followed by six years as head of the varsity soccer team.

Stolarski became the winningest coach in university history with a 70-40-20 record.

By 1979, Stolarski was among the few Texas coaches to have a U.S. Soccer Federation national "A" coaching license. His coaching pedigree led to the South Texas Youth Soccer Association hiring him as state director of coaching in 1981.

The job required him to scout high school age players for the U.S. Olym-

pic Development Program.

That same year, Stolarski was invited to serve as assistant coach to the U.S. Soccer Federation regional team that played the German national team.

While he has piled up numerous individual soccer accomplishments, Stolarski's most memorable contribution to the sport is having mentored many players including his son Jake, a Brooks co-worker and teammate.

His legacy to Brooks is the lunchtime soccer program he co-founded, which has further added to

the game's popularity.

He's as passionate about coaching as he is playing the game.

"I kind of thought I was good at it, helping players learn how to organize their thoughts while keeping track of the ball, their teammates and opposing players. Soccer is so different from other sports. It moves freely. You have to pay attention," he said.

That inherent sense of where and what is occurring on the field is part of Stolarski's understanding of the game's rhythm.

"It's a very interesting way to get exercise. It's also a real connection to people in the world," he said about its universal appeal, promoted by a true ambassador of the sport.

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Photo by Rudy Purificato

Dave Stolarski, left, with son Jake. The men are teammates on Brooks' lunchtime soccer team, coworkers at Brooks, and friends.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Dave Stolarski, founder of Brooks' lunchtime soccer program, practices with his son Jake at the Fitness Center field. Both played for the Brooks team in the Lackland Air Force Base's "Defender's Cup" tournament recently.



I.C.E. ‘sculpts’ league crown with intramural hoop win

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Using mostly bench players close in age to NBA Hall of Famer George “The Iceman” Gervin, the Mission Support Group’s I.C.E. squad spoiled their opponent’s record-setting scoring performance by clinching the Brooks intramural basketball league crown with an impressive 79-69 win Feb. 4 over the 311th Security Forces Squadron.

Missing four of its starters, I.C.E. maintained its undefeated season by beating a previously unbeaten squad that was led by Colby Benjamin’s 50-point onslaught. Benjamin, who set the Brooks intramural hoop single game scoring record, in the end became the victim of his own success when the I.C.E. defense froze him out of many scoring opportunities.

“We shut him (Benjamin) down during the last two minutes of the game. Our strategy was to let him score to wear him out,” said Tim “Sug” Martin, I.C.E.’s reserve center. As a consequence, Benjamin’s dominance did not allow SFS many scoring options.

SFS’s other big scorer, J.D. Dumas, hardly touched the ball during most of the game after scoring the first field goal of the contest. “We held J.D. to two points, a lay-up at the start of the game,” recalls Martin, who noted that ‘cooler heads’ had prevailed among his teammates who did not panic at the prospect of playing against a much faster, athletic opponent.

With the exception of their star point guard Robert Garcia, who scored 28 points, I.C.E. fielded four reserves as starters. Their collective experience and hoop savvy eventually prevailed.

“We have a good mixture of youth and age. This



Photo by Rudy Purificato

311th Security Forces Squadron’s Colby Benjamin scores two of his record 50 points against Mission Support Group’s I.C.E. Despite Benjamins’ record score, SFS lost the game.

team never panics,” said I.C.E. coach Carl Lewis, whose usually calm courtside demeanor may appear to some as a “Mr. Freeze” personality with ice water in his veins. The truth about Lewis is he steadfastly believes in his team that exudes confidence, maturity and a willingness to accept any role thrust upon them.

“We have a deep bench. In fact, we actually have two starting teams,” Lewis explained, referring to

the four reserves he started for the league championship-clinching contest who have tons of experience. Martin, who was the scoring star when MSG last won the league title as an undefeated team in 1997, was a substitute along with ‘older than dirt’ guard Hosea Talbert and his long-in-the-tooth court accomplices Curtis Reese and newcomer Rob Collins. They played with passion and conviction in place of starting shooting guards James Turner and Ken Snead and power forwards Buck Richardson and Thomas Williams. In doing so, I.C.E., which stands for Intensity, Concentration and Execution, didn’t miss a beat in its on-going quest for a perfect season.

Lewis described his team’s ultimate goal of winning their first base championship by saying, “This is our year.” He said the biggest difference from last year’s squad, which was eliminated in the base tournament semi-finals, is Garcia. Garcia is the heart of the team as the playmaker and chief cheerleader in helping encourage his teammates to step up their play to a higher level.

“Every player has stepped up their play,” confessed Lewis, noting that the team is focused, cohesive, disciplined, and are playing fundamentally sound, smart basketball. “We have never won a base title, but we can taste it. We have an intense desire for it,” Lewis said.

No one is more intense and committed to winning than Garcia, a team sparkplug whose leadership on and off the court has been infectious. “He sets the tempo. They feed off him,” Lewis said.

As league champs, I.C.E. is seeded number one for the double elimination base tournament that begins at 5:30 p.m. Feb.25 at the Fitness Center. The championship game is tentatively scheduled for a 3 p.m. start March 7.

“It’s always tough in the playoffs. Everybody looks to knock you off. If we avoid beating ourselves, we should do well,” Lewis said, a hint of optimism in his voice.

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